Packaged food for Mid-Day Meal Scheme

3603.SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Commissioner appointed by the Supreme Court has, in a report, pointed out leakage in the Mid-Day-MEAL Schme for school children, preferring hot meals cooked at site;

(b) whether Government is toying with the proposal to provide pre-packaged, ready to eat foods, for children with similar nutritional value of hot cooked meals; and

(c) if so, whether the offer of Biscuit Manufacturers' Association of India for highly nutritive and specialized food for the ICDS scheme is under consideration of Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATAMI): (a) The Court Commissioners appointed by the Supreme Court for monitoring the implementation of the Mid Day Meal Scheme have highlighted some issues of concern in relation to the Mid Day Meal Scheme in their 7th Report submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(b) The proposal to provide pre-packaged, ready to eat foods under Mid Day Meal Programme was considered carefully.The Department of School Education and Literacy does not support the proposal because replacement of the hot cooked Mid Day Meal with pre-packaged, ready to eat foods would not be in the nutritional interest of children.

(c) Ministry of Women & Child Development, Food & Nutrition Board has reported that they have not received any proposal from Biscuit Manufacturers' Association of India for supply of highly nutritive and specialized foods for the ICDS Scheme.

Coverage under Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Jharkhand

3604. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of children in Jharkhand is covered by the Mid-Day Meal Scheme;

(b) what is the kind of food, which is provided under scheme in different States;

(c) what is the rate of deficiency of Vitamin A and iron among children, according to the National Nutrition Monitoring Board (NNMB); and

(d) why there is no plan to fortify the Mid-Day Meals in schools despite compelling evidence on deficient intake of micronutrients, as revealed by NNMB's recent survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATAMI): (a) As per population projections for 2007, the number of children in the 6-10 age group in Jharkhand is 35,53,600. The State Government has reported that 35,29,381 children in classes I—V in Government and Government aided schools and AIE/EGS centres are availing Mid Day Meal. This represents 99% coverage of children at the primary stage of learning under the Mid Day Meal Programme.

(b) The guidelines of the Mid-day Meal Scheme stipulate that Mid-Day Meal should be of minimum 450 calories with 12 grams of protein at primary level.The nutritional value at

upper primary stage should be of minimum 700 calories with 20 grams of protein. State Governments prepare menus in accordance with the above nutritional value as well as local food habits and taste.

(c) According to National Nutrition Monitoring Bureau (NNMB) survey conducted during 2004-2005 in rural areas of nine states viz. Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Gujrat, Orissa and West Bengal the prevalence of Bitot Spot, an objective sign of vitamin A deficiency is 1.6% in 5-12 years children. As per the NNMB report, 2006, the intake of vitamin A and Iron in children is as below:—

Children	Vitamin A(ugs)	Iron (mgs)
1-3 years	56	4.3
RDA	400	12
4-6 years	66	6.8
RDA	400	18
7-9 years	75	8.2
RDA	600	26
10-12 years-Boys	90	9.6
RDA	600	34
10-12 years-Girls	79	9.2
RDA	600	19

(d) The MDM guidelines of the scheme recommend that the mid-day meal should be complemented with the appropriate interventions relating to micronutrient supplementations and de-worming through administration of (a) six monthly dose for deworming and Vitamin -A supplementation, (b) weekly Iron and Folic-Acid supplement, Zinc and (c) other appropriate supplementation depending on common deficiencies found in the local area. The guidelines also recommend that only iodized/double fortified(iron and iodine) salt should be used for cooking.

Setting up of Aligarh Complex

3605. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up Aligarh complex modelled on Aligarh Muslim University, in some States;

(b) if so, the places selected for this purpose; and

(c) the status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) is goverened by an Act of Parliament. In terms of Section 12(2) of the Act, the University is competent to decide on setting up Special Centres, Specialized Laboratories or other institutions for